



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 29, 2003**

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***COCAINE SMUGGLING ORGANIZER AND TOP TEN  
FUGITIVE PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG  
CHARGES***

**SAVANNAH:** Rick Thompson, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia announced that James Spencer Springette 43, a native of St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, entered a guilty plea in U.S. District Court in Augusta on September 18, 2003 to conspiracy to import cocaine. He faces a possible sentence of ten years to life imprisonment, a four million dollar fine, and five years supervised release. No date was set for sentencing.

Springette was indicted with six others for operating an organization that imported tens of thousands of kilograms of cocaine into the United States between 1991 and 1999. The indictment covers seizures of 6,000 kilos from a freighter that Springette purchased, and 1262 kilos seized following the shooting of a police inspector in the British Virgin Islands. Many multi-kilogram shipments were brought into Augusta Georgia. Five of the defendants were convicted in 2000. Springette and Francis Moulan, 34, a native of Tortola, British Virgin Islands, remained fugitives until their capture overseas in 2002. Springette was designated an FBI Top Ten Fugitive in 2002. Moulan also entered a plea of guilty and he was sentenced to 71 months imprisonment on September 25, 2003.

The U.S. Customs Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement

Administration, U.S. Coast Guard, and Internal Revenue Service took part in the investigation of this matter, which was designated as a Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) case. The U.S. Virgin Islands Police Department, (British) Royal Virgin Islands Police Force, and authorities in Colombia, Venezuela, Jamaica, Panama, and Honduras all assisted in bringing the case to a successful conclusion. The lead case agent was Larry H. Sapp, Senior Special Agent, U.S. Customs Service. The United States was represented by Assistant United States Attorneys J. Michael Faulkner and Nancy C. Greenwood.

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